

Why there's a stampeding rhino enemy in Ocean's Hudson Hawk Amiga/Atari ST platform game

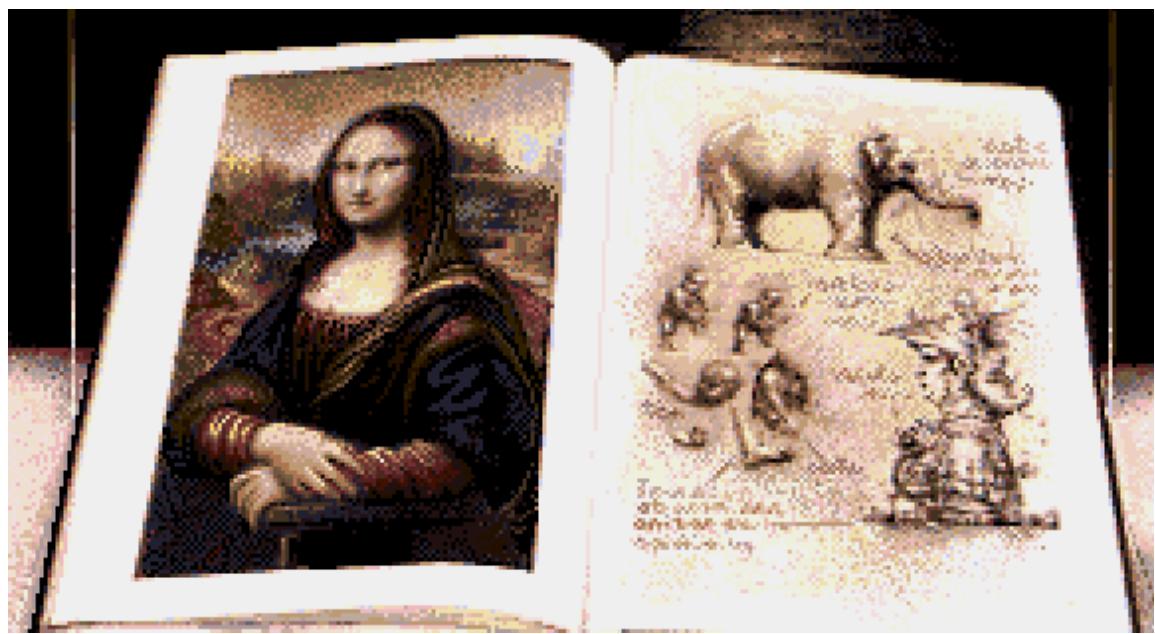
Written by dreamkatcha. Written by dreamkatcha. Any related videos, as always, can be found on my YouTube channel.



For as long as Hollywood A-list actors have been moonlighting as directors and writers, gamers are notoriously divided by their rabid advocacy for one platform or another. Nevertheless, one thing that never fails to unite Amiga and Atari ST owners is the abiding enigma pertaining to the presence of that stampeding rhino in Ocean's licensed platformer based on the alleged comedy crime caper movie flopbuster, *Hudson Hawk*, courtesy of co-writer and lead actor, Bruce Willis.



Nothing of the sort appears in the movie; the closest we witness is a stuffed elephant toy known as Pokey shlepped around by a sulky, pouting brat participating in a tour of Rome's Vatican museum. Eddie 'Hudson Hawk' Hawkins unapologetically snatches it from her clutches, launching it towards a display case protecting Leonardo Da Vinci's Codex notebook to trigger an alarm cage system so he can establish the level of security measures in place and later return to subvert them, stealing the priceless artefact for a gang of thugs who are blackmailing him.







Pokey isn't an entirely irrelevant red herring given that an elephant can be spotted buried beneath layers of paint in Da Vinci's 'Adoration of the Magi' masterpiece... assuming you view it armed with the right infra-red imaging paraphernalia.

But that's enough Pokey, I know you're *really* here for Ganda. Not ganja, that's something else entirely. Ganda was the name of an Indian rhinoceros gifted to Pope Leo X by King Manuel I of Portugal in December 1515. Currying favour aside, King Manuel was growing tired of his spoilt Playboy's menagerie by this stage owing to a damp squib of a baby elephant vs rhino ruckus. Orchestrated to answer the abiding conundrum, "are the two species bitter rivals?", his

unspectacular spectacle ended prematurely due to the calf becoming spooked and making a sharp exit before a single blow landed. Incidentally, King Manuel had a reputation for bequeathing bizarre gifts, previously Fed-Exing his pet Asian white elephant, Hanno, to the same Pope to commemorate his coronation in 1513.

Some journeys were more successful than others. Ganda was shackled to the deck of a boat on course for Rome, however, failed to arrive safely owing to the sudden emergence of a freak storm off the coast of Italy that caused the vessel to be destroyed, drowning the bedraggled rhino in the process. Believe it or not, rhinos *can* actually swim so Ganda may have survived the shipwreck had it not been restrained onboard. It's rumoured that the remains of Ganda's carcass were recovered, stuffed and displayed in the Vatican the following year, although actual evidence of the assumed taxidermy operation is still missing in action.



Genuine or not, I suspect the pixelated rendition we see rampaging in Ocean's gaming homage is an allusion to the

world's most ridiculous live Christmas pressie, damaged in transit over 500 years ago.



Perhaps the supposed corpse exhibit was reanimated by a stray ray of light emitted from Da Vinci's malfunctioning alchemy machine, causing it to break free from its plinth to terrorise our downtrodden Bruce Willis-ish sprite.



Or of course, it could just be random frivolous nonsense intended to spice up a fairly typical 2D platformer during an era when the genre was rapidly approaching saturation point.

